

Post about these secret prisons that we have all over the world where really, basically, there is no accountability.

So my point is, if we can all agree that this is wrong, let us make it the absolute law of this land and comply with what the U.S. Army Manual says and support Senator MCCAIN in his efforts. And I hope we can do that in a bipartisan way, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. GINGREY. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I will simply close by recognizing the hard work and the incredible effort of Subcommittee Chairman WOLF and all of the House and Senate conferees. Reconciling differences between the two Chambers is rarely a simple task, but I believe they have once again risen to the occasion and they have produced a conference report that may not please everybody with everything, but it gets the job done by appropriately balancing our spending needs with our budget.

Mr. Speaker, the American people demand and they expect responsible spending to support law enforcement, strengthened diplomacy which builds upon our competitive edge. Today, it is my hope that we have delivered. So I ask my colleagues for their full support of the rule and this underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1751, SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 540 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 540

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1751) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and

their family members, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 540 is a structured rule which provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. It provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary and now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. It waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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It makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying this resolution. It

provides that the amendments made in order may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. It shall not be subject to amendment or a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. It waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of House Resolution 540 and the underlying bill, H.R. 1751, the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act of 2005.

First, I want to extend my gratitude to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) of the Committee on the Judiciary. I also would like to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) as well as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), the author of this important piece of legislation.

As I previously noted in my opening statement for the rule on H.R. 420, the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2005, this past month has ushered in the passage of very meaningful and very significant legislation to reform and strengthen our courts both procedurally and substantively. Today we have an opportunity to strengthen our courts in a more literal sense by protecting them against a rising tide of violence that has harmed and claimed the lives of innocent individuals charged with enforcing and upholding our laws.

It was only a number of months ago that tragedy struck the Fulton County courthouse in Atlanta, my home State of Georgia. There, as most of America watched and sorrowfully remember, on March 13 a cold-blooded killer took the lives of four innocent people, forever robbing their families and depriving our legal system of the distinguished service of Fulton County Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes, age 64; his court reporter, Julie Anne Brandau, age 46; Fulton County Sheriff Deputy Hoyt Teasley, age 43; and Federal agent David Wilhelm, age 40.

Mr. Speaker, law and order, not violence, should permeate our courts. Accordingly, H.R. 1751 would take important steps to deter and punish those who would exact revenge because they were caught in a criminal activity.

First, this bill will further punish any individual who would seek to influence, impede, or retaliate against a judge, a prosecutor, a law enforcement officer, or their families by increasing the penalties and providing new mandatory minimums such as 30-years-to-life mandatory minimum for kidnapping.

Additionally, each and every day men and women in law enforcement and public safety across this country proudly don their uniforms, fully recognizing that they represent their cities, States and their country; and they